

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of September 26, 2005**

1. **Washington Adventist Hospital to Close:** As has been reported in the Washington Post and Takoma Park Gazette, the Board of Trustees of Adventist HealthCare voted last week to move Washington Adventist Hospital from its current location to an as-yet-undisclosed site in Montgomery County within about five miles of Takoma Park. Hospital President Jere Stocks will come to the Thursday, October 6 City Council meeting to discuss the announcement. Information is on the main page of the City's web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
2. **Council Statement:** Council Statement on the Washington Adventist Hospital is posted on the City web site and distributed as a media advisory today. A special email address has been established for comments on the WAH relocation announcement: Comments@takomagov.org (*City TV*)
3. **Election Material:** Election material provided by the City Clerk's office is posted in English and Spanish to the web site. (*City TV*)
4. **Montgomery County Housing Fair - Saturday, October 1st (City-wide):** Don't forget - the Montgomery County Housing Fair is tomorrow! There will be over 50 exhibitors. Workshops on Consumer Scams, Managing Money and Credit, and Home Buying will be offered. Free credit reports and credit counseling will be available (Spanish and English). This is a wonderful place for a First Time Homebuyer to get all the information that is needed to eventually become a homeowner. The Fair will run from 10 am - 4 pm, at Bohrer Park (506 S. Frederick Avenue) in Gaithersburg. Please see Takoma Park's website (www.takomagov.org) for further information and directions to the fair. (*Housing and Community Development*)
5. **Street Festival:** City TV staff will be videotaping the Old Town Street Festival this Sunday Oct. 2. (*City TV*)
6. **Langley Park Transit Center Public Meeting (Ward 6):** SHA will be holding a public meeting on the Langley Park Transit Center October 19, 2005 from approximately 5 pm to 8 pm at the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park, MD 20783. The meeting should be an open house format with drop ins welcome. SHA and MTA would like feedback on design options for the proposed transit center. The public meeting will also be used to gather comments on the proposed pedestrian safety changes to University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue which includes a substantial fence along the median, a sidewalk in front of the shopping area on the SW side of the intersection and improvements to the park and sidewalk between Holton Lane and Kennewick among other changes. The limits of the project are Piney Branch to 14th Avenue on University Boulevard and Merrimac to Holton Lane on New Hampshire Avenue. This may be the only opportunity to comment on the Transit Center and is the only planned public meeting to comment on highway pedestrian safety improvements. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. Walkable Communities Workshops (Wards 1, 3, 5 & 6): There has been a date change for the State Highway sponsored Walkable Communities Workshops. The new Workshop dates are October 24th and 25th. The workshops will be similar to the Dan Burden walking tours and will address pedestrian and bicycle safety. Bob Chauncy of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking will lead the workshops. The four selected areas are Piney Branch between Philadelphia and Ritchie Avenue, Takoma/Langley Park, Takoma Junction, and Flower Avenue. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to participate. The series includes an evening group walking tour in Langley Park. Additional information will be posted shortly on the city website or contact David Suls at 301-891-7219 or DavidS@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Business Financial Incentives Fair (Wards 2, 3, & 6): The city is holding a Business Financial Incentives Fair for businesses located in the state recognized Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise Zone is the commercial area along New Hampshire Ave, University Blvd, and Piney Branch Rd. It provides incentives for expanding business to eligible business owners. The Fair will explain how to apply for these and other resources for businesses. The Fair will be November 1st, from 8am-11am and will be tentatively held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. For more information please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219 or DavidS@takomagov.org . *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Forum on Gang Activities: A second forum on gang activities has been scheduled for Thursday, October 27, at 7:30pm, to be held here in the Municipal Building Council Chambers. This second forum will focus on prevention and intervention, with an emphasis on the role of parents, schools, youth programs, the faith community, and others. Mr. Joe Heiney-Gonzalez, Hispanic/Latino Liaison Officer for Montgomery County, has agreed to be the main guest speaker at this event. Other notable community leaders who have agreed to speak at the forum are Pastor Terry Johnsson of Sligo SDA Church; Ms. Candance Kattar, Executive Director of Identity, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to Latino youth; and Mr. Gabriel Alborno, Executive Director of Latin American Youth Center, a multicultural community based organization that supports youth and their families. We are still waiting to hear from a few more individuals to confirm their attendance as speakers. The forum will be hosted by Councilmember Doug Barry (Ward 6). For more information, please contact Executive Assistant Peggye Forster at ext. 7230, or at peggyef@takomagov.org. *(Executive Assistant)*

10. Library Forum: On November 16 at 7:30 PM, the Library will host a special forum featuring award-winning independent radio producers in a discussion led by former NPR producer Steve Mencher. Marika Partridge, Neenah Ellis, David Schulman and Emily Hanford are well known to NPR listeners around the country, and will be featured guests for this program. This presentation, entitled "Radio Rules" is being held in conjunction with the Takoma Park Film Festival at the Takoma Park Community Center on November 18, 19 and 20. *(Library)*

11. **FTPM Book Sale:** After a year's absence, the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will hold a long-awaited used book sale in front of the Library on Saturday October 15 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Contact Ellen Robbins at the Library if you wish to volunteer (Early bird volunteers do a lot of work, but get first look at the books!) *(Library)*

12. **2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan:** The Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission staff has released a draft of the "2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan." A public hearing on this plan is scheduled for October 27 in Silver Spring. The draft indicates a need for 5 teen and 2 adult-sized baseball/softball fields, 6 to 7 adult-sized rectangular fields, and 2 to 3 more basketball courts in the Takoma Park area. According to the plan, there are enough youth-sized ball fields in the area. A final document is to be submitted to the State in December. Excerpts of the plan will be distributed to Councilmembers. The document is a requirement for the Program Open Space funds that come to Montgomery County and Takoma Park. For more information, go to www.mc-mncppc.org or call Mark Wallis at 301-650-4389. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

13. **Street Restoration (Ward 6):** Glenside Drive and Cole Avenue were paved this week. The Glenside speed bumps were re-installed Friday. Concrete curb & gutter replacement has begun on Holton Lane. This work will continue through next week. *(Public Works)*

14. **Crackfilling Program To Begin (Citywide):** The annual crackfilling operation will commence on Monday, October 3 and is expected to continue through the month of October. This program will be completed with Public Works staff. *(Public Works)*

15. **Heffner Park Improvements Continue (Ward 4):** Three parking lot lights were installed at Heffner Park recently. Funding for this project came from the Community Parks and Playgrounds grant the City received last year. The City received 2 grants to complete the renovation of Heffner Park. The first grant enabled the renovation to the playground and some landscaping. The second grant has been used to continue the landscaping program and install exterior lighting. The last component will be the repaving of the lot, which will be scheduled for the month of October. In addition, the Building Maintenance staff renovated the kitchen and aluminum siding has been installed to cover the wooden exterior areas and the soffits. *(Public Works)*

16. **Clean Up At Sligo Mill Road (Ward 3):** The City's Right of Way Division organized a debris removal effort off of Sligo Mill Road. The City had received reports of illegal dumping. One right of way crew spent the better part of 2 days removing several truck loads of the dumped debris. *(Public Works)*

17. **Weed & Seed Activities (Wards 4 & 5):** The first wave of directed patrol in the W4 and W5 beats, using overtime funding through the Longbranch Neighborhood Weed and Seed, was completed with focused patrol in the Flower, Houston, Maple and Lee Avenue areas. Between Sept. 16 and 27, officers working between 4:00 PM and midnight logged 88 hours of directed patrol, recording 62 warnings, 34 citations, 13 field stops, 3 arrests, and 25 hours of foot patrol. Additional waves are expected this autumn. *(Police)*

18. **Legislative Priorities:** None of the four legislative priorities proposed by Takoma Park for pursuit by the Maryland Municipal League have been recommended by the MML Legislative Committee. If any of them are to be adopted, City officials will need to persuade representatives of other municipalities to support the initiatives at the MML Legislative Conference in mid-October, where the final decision is made. The four Takoma Park proposals to MML were: "Electric Industry-Aggregation-Municipal Organizations," "Double Taxation-Tax Setoff Level-Binding Arbitration & Judicial Review," "Local Income Tax-Increased Municipal Share," and "Homeowner's Property Tax Credit-Municipal Authority & Administrative Costs." Takoma Park will pursue many or all of these initiatives independently with the State Legislature this winter. Takoma Park is also pursuing legislation regarding regulation of condominium conversion. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

19. **Children's IDs (Ward 6):** About 20 children were fingerprinted for identification purposes last Saturday at Our Lady of Sorrows School (Ward 6) sponsored by Cpl. Smith of the COP Team. Diana Dean (Victim Assistance) and other administrative staff will offer fingerprinting and distribute information at the Old Town Street Festival on Sunday. *(Police)*

20. **Crime Report (Wards 2 & 3):** Detectives obtained a warrant for stalking and first degree assault in Ward 2. A warrant was also obtained for two theft-from-auto and a burglary, which occurred in August on Larch. A warrant was obtained for a September burglary on Eastern Ave.; the suspect is in D.C. detention on related charges and is under investigation for additional burglaries in the City. *(Police)*

21. **Officers in Training:** Several officers participated in counter-terrorism/vehicle search training, offered in cooperation with Montgomery County Police. Eighteen officers have received the two-day training since mid-August. Det. Conrad attended two-day training in robbery and burglary investigations. *(Police)*

22. **The Chief & Officers in Meetings (Ward 6):** Chief Creamer attended an emergency preparedness committee meeting on Thursday. She joined Ofc. Butler of the COP team at a meeting with residents of the Hillwood Manor neighborhood on Thursday evening. Capt. Coursey and others participated in a joint roll call with Montgomery and Prince George's County officers on Monday in the C-Safe area. *(Police)*

23. **Arrests Report & Traffic Enforcement (Ward 2):** Among 10 arrests this week were charges for drug possession, impaired driving and a daytime theft from auto. During a traffic enforcement stop, one man was arrested for weapons possession. Traffic enforcement included at least 43 citations in 51 traffic stops. Streets covered, in addition to major roadways, were Merrimac, Jackson, Erskine, Sycamore, Linden, Maplewood, Houston and Ritchie. Major roads included Carroll, Flower, Maple, Ethan Allen, Philadelphia, New Hampshire and University. *(Police)*

24. **Squad Changes:** Corporal Cannatella and Corporal Malarkey have been transferred to Squad 2, under direction of Sergeant Hammond. After his promotion to sergeant, Sergeant Collington was transferred to Criminal Investigations. *(Police)*

25. **Spanish Speaking Resources:** The Library is providing approximately 30 new resources for Spanish speaking Library users of all ages. Many are reference resources with accompanying CD-ROMs. These include multi-volume sets on geography and

world cultures, medicine and alternative medicine, anthropology, art, religion, environmental science and much more. An encyclopedia of practical child care is available for checkout, with another set in reference. There are reference and circulating works for children as well. While they are still being added to the collection, you may view newly catalogued resources by clicking on "recent items" on our catalog search screen, accessible on the Internet via the Library web page, <http://www.takomapark.info/library>. (*Library*)

26. **For College Students:** On September 29, Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre began our four-part speakers' series for college bound students and their parents. The series continues on October 6 (Financial Aid), October 20 (SAT and ACT preparation) and October 27 (college choices and resources for students with learning disabilities). Call the Library for further information. Presented with support from the Friends of the Library. (*Library*)

27. **Philosopher at the Library:** Socratic philosopher Chris Phillips returns to the Library on Tuesday October 4th, at 7:30 PM to facilitate a stimulating discussion and civil discourse. Appropriate for children age 8 and up, parents and other interested adults. (*Library*)

28. **Cable Scheduling:** The October City TV schedule will be posted to the city web site by the end of the day Sept. 30. Highlights include the new Snapshots episode, several performances from last month's Folk Festival and replays of the special meetings on Metro Development and Gang Activity. City TV will also air this week's Nominating Caucus and Council meetings. (*City TV*)

29. **NATOA Conference:** City TV staff attended the NATOA conference last week. Many NATOA attendees lobbied on Capital Hill against proposed legislation on cable franchising and rights-of-way management. (*City TV*)

30. **City Staff Office Move Delayed a Week:** City staff working in City Hall hope to move into new office space in the new part of the building in mid-October. Please have patience while we are in the process of packing and unpacking. We hope to maintain full service to citizens during the transition. Grand opening festivities for the Takoma Park Community Center are scheduled for the afternoon of October 22. (*Community & Government Liaison*)